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SIZING UP TEXANS TRADE, NFL DEAL

Bohls analyzes the latest moves as Houston sends its best receiver to Arizona

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City's Bryan Museum is a must-stop for history buffs

Austin American-Statesman

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

PLANNING FOR THE LONG HAUL

Stocks plunge again as recession risk grows, **B5**

MLB delays opening day until at least mid-May, **C1**

Gov. Abbott suspends open meetings laws, **B1**

Abbott warns of spike in virus cases

Expect 'exponential' jump in diagnoses as testing ramps up, he says

By Chuck Lindell
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Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday warned Texans to expect to see the number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 grow rapidly in the coming days as testing ramps up across the state.

"You are going to see an exponential increase in the number of people who test positive on a daily basis. People just need to be prepared and not shocked for the mathematical reality," Abbott said.

Evidence of person-to-person spread of the disease in several parts of Texas — as opposed to those who traveled outside the state or had contact with a traveler — will lead to an increased number of illnesses related to the new coronavirus, the governor said during an update on the pandemic from San Antonio.

But the rising numbers also will be fueled by plans to vastly increase the number of tests administered as private, state and Federal Emergency Management

See ABBOTT, A6

Terri Buis, co-owner of Home Slice Pizza, disinfects a trash can and other high-touch areas outside her restaurant Monday on South Congress Avenue. Home Slice closed its dining room and started serving curbside only due to the coronavirus outbreak. [JAY JANNER/AMERICAN-STATESMAN]

Some restaurants close temporarily or limit service

Austin officials on Monday discussed possibly closing restaurant dining rooms

By Matthew Odam
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As some of the largest cities in the country ordered restaurant dining rooms to close, Austin restaurant owners were wondering Monday whether similar orders would come here. Some announced their own plans to close dining rooms in lieu of take-out and delivery, with some choosing to close completely.

The day President Donald Trump advised Americans to avoid eating at restaurants and meeting in groups of 10 or more — and news came that Dallas and Houston would join New York state and Los Angeles in mandating closure of dining rooms while allowing takeout — some of Austin's most popular and prolific restaurant groups and individual operators, including New Waterloo, McGuire Moorman Hospitality, Home Slice Pizza and Franklin Barbecue, all announced major changes to their way of business.

Those announcements came the day after Olamaie chef-owner Michael Fojtasek chose to close his refined Southern restaurant until May 1 and before a city news conference scheduled for Tuesday morning.

"It's not safe. My team's not safe. I don't know who's immuno-compromised on this team or whose partner is, but if somebody catches it here and gives it to somebody and somebody dies, that's not right," Fojtasek said Sunday.

Austin Mayor Steve Adler told the Statesman on Monday evening that the possible closure of restaurant dining rooms and non-essential business was discussed during a Monday night meeting at the Emergency Operations Center and that a news conference was planned for Tuesday morning.

"The kinds of actions that are being taken in Houston and in Dallas and in states and cities across the country is the kind of action that I support," Adler said Monday night. "Already the injury to service workers in this city is

See CLOSINGS, A10

School districts extend spring break

Officials make plans for Central Texas students to learn remotely

By Julie Chang and Aaricka Washington
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Major Austin-area school districts announced Monday that they will extend spring break for up to two weeks longer as officials attempt to fend off the spread of the new coronavirus in their communities.

"Please know that I do not make these decisions very lightly," Paul Cruz, the Austin school district superintendent, said during a news conference. "And when I look at an organization with 81,000 students and meeting their needs every day, with a workforce of over 12,000 and 129 sites, I can't just make a split decision. I have to think about every youngster, every family and the impact that that means when we cancel classes."

The Austin school district, as well as several other nearby districts, will remain closed through April 5, two weeks beyond the end of spring break, which

See SCHOOLS, A8

White House tells older people to stay home

Government urges all ages to avoid crowds of 10 or more

By Jonathan Lemire, Andrew Taylor and Jill Colvin
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House on Monday urged all older Americans to stay home and everyone to avoid crowds of 10 or more and eating out at restaurants as part of sweeping guidelines meant to combat an expected surge of coronavirus cases.

President Donald Trump, in a marked shift in tone about a crisis that has enveloped the globe, for the first time acknowledged that the pandemic may send the U.S. economy into a recession and suggested that the nation may be dealing with the virus until "July or August."

The guidelines, which would rewrite the norms of American society for half a month, were released as the U.S. government tried to blunt the impact of an expected surge of new coronavirus cases, racing to bolster testing and aid even as the financial markets tumbled.

Among the new recommendations: Over the next 15 days, Americans should not gather in groups of more than 10 people, schooling should be at home and discretionary travel and social visits should be avoided. If anyone in a household tests positive for the virus, everyone who lives there should stay home. The administration did not define what an an older American was in terms of the recommendation to stay home.

"We will rally together as one nation and we will defeat the virus," Trump said. "We can turn the corner and turn it quickly."

The president, in an appearance in the White House briefing room, when asked when the pandemic would

See CROWDS, A4

The U.S. Capitol Rotunda sits empty on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday after Congress shut the Capitol and all Senate and House office buildings to the public until April in reaction to the spread of the coronavirus outbreak. [PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Vol. 149, Issue 236
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TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Cloudy, warm	*Mostly cloudy*	*Thunderstorms*
82° / 67°	*80° / 67°*	*80° / 58°*